

RFP 2001-30
Statewide Contracts for Personal Computers, Notebooks and Servers
Vendor Questions Received on March 27, 2001

Question:

“Pages 40 and 41, Section 45 ‘Warranty’; Specifically, the first paragraph includes the statement ‘...and (3) Any Software and Firmware Maintenance costs.’ We interpret that to mean software (including Operating System) that is provided with an equipment purchase. Furthermore, we interpret that to mean bug-fixes, patches, driver updates, and minor revisions, which are available to the general public from the OEM, at no additional charge. We do not interpret this to include Major revisions, for which an OEM normally charges the general public. An example of a non-covered Major revision would be considered an upgrade (i.e. Windows 2000 was an upgrade to NT 4.0 Workstation). Please verify our interpretation and/or clarify the government’s intent.”

Answer: The requirements are stated in the referenced section of the Terms and Conditions.

Question:

Appendix B:

“Under the monitor section the choices are 17”, 19”, 21” available. Which one of these monitors is the Commonwealth looking to be included as standard, and which of these should be available (as an option, I assume)?”

Answer: The minimum requirement is that these sizes are available. In Section 6, “Price Schedule”, you will need to price a model that includes a 17” monitor for evaluation purposes.

Question:

“As part of our bid response, are we supposed to include a price of a machine that already includes a 9GB SCSI hard drive, or just offer a machine in which we can install an optional 9GB SCSI hard drive?”

Answer: The requirement for Appendix B is that SCSI is available. For evaluation purposes, Section 6 requires you to price a model with a SCSI hard drive.

Question:

Appendix D:

“Cache size is listed as 521K Level 2. However, the size of this cache is available ONLY on Intel Pentium XEON processors. Is a XEON processor a minimum requirement by default then?”

Answer: The requirement is for a Cache size of 512K Level 2.

Question:

“Network requires 2 Enet cards. The primary is described in further detail as requiring load balancing & fault tolerance. The secondary just says 10/100. Can we assume the second card requires no load balancing, fault tolerance, management, etc?”

Answer: That is correct.

Question:

“Tape Backup is listed as DLT (20g-40g). Tape Backup Software is mentioned, but no requirement is listed”.

Answer: The requirement is that tape backup software is available.

Question:

“Similar issue as Appendix B regarding monitor, only difference is between 15” & 17”. What does the Commonwealth require?”

Answer: As above, the requirement is that both sizes are available. In Section 6, “Price Schedule”, you will need to price a model that includes a 17” monitor for evaluation purposes.

Question:

“Power & Cooling requires Hot-Plug/Hot-Swap Power supplies/fans. However, no minimum quantities of each are specified”.

Answer: The requirement states that they must be redundant.

Question:

“Video requirements of 4GB are obviously a misprint. There are NO video cards available on the market with 4GB expandability. This needs to be rectified”.

Answer: You are correct, this was a misprint. See "Amendment 1" on the ASD website for clarification.

Question:

"Can you extend the closing date of the bid to at least 7-10 business days after the questions have been answered?"

Answer: The closing date remains as stated in the solicitation. There are no plans to extend that date.

Question:

"Under Section 1, 1.1 Purpose there are two (2) categories, Premium and Value. Within those categories are desktops, workstations, servers and notebooks. Both require that equipment be the same brand.

Our company has worked as a VAR for another manufacturer since the mid 1990's. This brand has a long-standing relationship with a major notebook vendor. I am assuming the concern the state has to issue this clause is over warranty issues and possible conflict resolution.

Would the state accept a response (not reject it) if the vendor offers clear statements and procedures over warranty issues and conflict resolution leading to one point (that vendor) rather than desktops (one vendor) and notebooks (another vendor). Would the state accept any form of written/contractual assurances that would allow for a response that includes a desktop from one brand and the notebook carrying another?"

Answer: The desktop and notebook must both display the same brand name.

Question:

"Will the state take into consideration in its weighting written requests by state agencies/localities that vendor be listed/awarded contract."

Answer: Section 1.24 lists the criteria that will be used exclusively in the evaluation of proposals.

Question:

"The DIT website reads **SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 3/23/2001 Issue Date, 4/02/01 Proposals Due (Extended). Yet there is no extended date listed, either in the RFP or in Addendum 1.

Will the state consider extending this, even for one week that vendors may be given an opportunity to respond to the RFP in a manner the Commonwealth deserves?”

Answer: The closing date remains as stated in the solicitation. There are no plans to extend that date.

Question:

“We are submitting more than one brand per category. How do we submit proposals? Do we need one entire proposal per brand?”

Answer: There must be one entire proposal per brand.

Question:

“For the cost proposal portion do we submit the ORIGINAL plus one copy or just the original? “

Answer: Only one copy of the Cost Proposal is required. The Original is sufficient.

Question:

“We are unable to break out the sales figures needed for Appendix G by the type of system. Is it acceptable to provide DIT with a total amount of sales for the requested time period?”

Answer: While we would prefer that this information be presented in the manner outlined in Appendix G, it is acceptable to provide documented total sales for the Commonwealth and for Virginia Localities.